

Message Text

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62

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CU-04 NSCE-00 NIC-01

DRC-01 /132 W

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R 180945Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8493

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TIAPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CH TH

SUBJ: PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR ON THAI STUDENT MOVEMENT

REF: A. HONG KONG 10419; B. WR 42

SUMMARY. PEOPLE'S DAILY OCTOBER 18 COMMENTATOR ARTICLE CARRIES FIRST AUTHORITATIVE PRC COMMENT ON THE OVERTHROW OF THE "THANOM-PRAPHAT CLIQUE" IN THAILAND. THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE SANYA GOVERNMENT OR US INVOLVEMENT. END SUMMARY

1. NCNA OCTOBER 18 CARRIES PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR ARTICLE WITH FIRST DENUNCIATION OF "THANOM-PRAPHAT CLIQUE." IT SAYS THAT
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IN THE FACE OF A STUDENT MOVEMENT WHICH DEFIES THE "SANGUINARY

SUPPRESSION" OF THE THAI AUTHORITIES, "THE THAI RULING CIRCLES BECAME PANIC STRICKEN AND THANOM KITTAKACHORN AND PRAPHAT CHARUSATHIEN WHO HAD BEEN IN POWER FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS WERE FORCED TO STEP DOWN." THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT THE "THANOM-PRAPHAT CLIQUE HAD PURSUED A DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE NATIONAL INTERESTS OF THAILAND, A POLICY THAT COMPLETELY RAN COUNTER TO THE ASPIRATION OF THE MASSES OF THE THAI PEOPLE FOR SAFEGUARDING INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY AND FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM. THIS AROUSED STRONG DISSATISFACTION AND RESISTANCE AMONG THE THAI PEOPLE." IT CONCLUDES, "THE STRUGGLE OF THE THAI STUDENTS AND PEOPLE IS JUST. ALTHOUGH THANOM AND PRAPHAT HAVE BEEN FORCED TO STEP DOWN, THE JUST DEMAND OF THE THAI STUDENTS AND PEOPLE HAS NOT BEEN REALIZED. THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE THAI PEOPLE AND THE RULING CIRCLES REMAIN VERY ACUTE. THE THAI AUTHORITIES MAY CONTINUE THEIR ARMED REPRESSION OR RESORT TO DECEITFUL TRICKS, BUT THEY CAN NEVER STOP THE ADVANCE OF THE STUDENT MOVEMENT AND PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE."

2. COMMENT. THIS AUTHORITATIVE COMMENTARY ON EVENTS IN THAILAND IS THE FIRST DENUNCIATION OF THE "THANOM-PRAPHAT CLIQUE" SINCE THE STUDENT CONFRONTATION BEGAN. WHILE CLEARLY CONDENMING THE DEPOSED LEADERS AND ASSERTING THAT THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE RULING CIRCLES AND THE PEOPLE REMAIN VERY ACUTE, THE CHINESE DID NOT MENTION THE SANYA GOVERNMENT AND PEKING'S OPTIONS REMAIN OPEN. UNLIKE HANOI'S COMMENTS (REF B), PEKING DOES NOT LINK THESE DEVELOPMENTS TO THE THAI COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE "PEOPLE STRUGGLE" NOT TO THE NEED FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM THE UNITED STATES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, GOVERNMENT REFORM, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, STUDENT GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973HONGK10529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731025/aaaaarzb.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. HONG KONG 10419; B. WR 42
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTATOR ON THAI STUDENT MOVEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, CH, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005